

In the Claims:

Kindly rewrite claims 1 and 23 as follows:

1. (Amended) A kit for bonding silicone compositions to
a base body comprising:

- A1 SUB B1 and
- a) at least one partially resolvable (co-)polymer;
 - b) at least one adhesive for silicones.

AD subca 23. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein
the composite is used for manufacturing a molding or an
impression tray for silicone compositions.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested. Initially, the objection under 35 U.S.C. 112 has been addressed.

On the merits, the present invention refers to a corresponding kit comprising at least one partially resolvable (co-)polymer and at least one adhesive for silicones.

The silicone, used in the present invention, like the silicone composition disclosed in present Claim 3,

can be any commercially available silicone such as that disclosed in Bryan (if commercially available). However, while this may be the case, the invention as claimed is distinct from the art cited for the following reasons.

Takahashi (US Patent 4,748,198) relates to a coating material for protecting the surfaces of teeth and has for his main object to protect the surfaces of healthy teeth against an acidic etching agent used for dental treatments for preservation and restoration, and for its additional object to prevent the so-called overfilling of a restorative material, in particular, a composite resin, cf. column 1, lines 7 - 14.

The coating material is a resinous composition comprising a polystyrene resin, a rosin and a chlorinated polymer. This protecting film can easily be removed with a toothbrush or Robinson brush, cf. column 1, lines 66 to 68 and column 2, lines 18 to 20. Rosins are known not to be stable against oxidation and therefore cannot be used to firmly bond silicone compositions to a base body. Moreover, Takahashi is silent about any composition for bonding silicones to a base body. Accordingly, the material according to Takahashi is only used for coating teeth.

As to the reference to Dunn (US 5,278,201), it refers to a method and composition for producing biodegradable polymers, and more particularly to the use of such polymers for providing syringeable, in-situ forming, solid, biodegradable implants, cf. column 12, lines 11 - 15. The polymer or (co-)polymer is dissolved in a solvent and the solution is placed into the body where the polymer coagulates or solidifies into a solid structure, cf. column 2, last paragraph to column 3, first paragraph. No adhesives are mentioned. Dunn is especially silent about any composition for bonding silicones to a base body. Moreover, no kit of components a) and b) of the present invention is disclosed.

Turning now to Jacobs (US 5,769,633), it relates to making a thin, hard, flexible dental tray customized to an individual patient's teeth, without the necessity of a professional's service, and a method to customize the dental tray. The invention uses dual trays. The inner tray is the customized tray. The outer tray supports the inner tray during forming, cf. column 11, lines 9 - 13. The inner tray comprises a polycaprolactone; the carrier tray is a thermoplastic material made from ethylene vinyl-acetate. The assembly of the two trays is submerged

into water at a temperature between 145 ° - 160° F. The two trays are put into the patient's mouth, the patient closes his mouth and vacuum is created inside the device, drawing air and water out of the assembly and teeth interface, cf. column 3, line 38 to column 4, line 11.

Such a product can not be used for bonding silicone compositions to a base body. Moreover, Jacobs is also silent about any composition for bonding silicones to a base body.

With regard to Oxman (US 5,709,548), it refers to thermoplastic molding compositions. He also refers to dental impression taking, to the manufacture of provisional oral prosthetic devices such as dentures, inlays, onlays, veneers, crowns and bridges, liners for crowns and to general-purpose modelmaking, cf. column 11, lines 18 - 22.

It is only mentioned in column 4, lines 37 to 45 that one or more impressions can be taken when fabricating provisional prosthetic devices like crowns and bridges using the thermoplastic molding composition. The impressions may be taken using any suitable elastomeric impression material like i.e.

polyvinylsiloxane. Oxman does, however, not mention bonding of a silicone to a base body.

In column 6, second and third paragraph a composition and a method for making an impression is disclosed, which comprises enveloping dental tissue with a homogeneous blend made of a thermoplastic material, a free-radically polymerizable resin and a free-radical initiator.

Thus, no combination of a partially resolvable (co-)polymer and an adhesive for silicones is disclosed.

Oxman also discloses the use of thermoplastic molding compositions as liners for crowns, especially for provisional crowns, cf. column 5, lines 24 to 26.

According to this disclosure a thermoplastic material can be used by partially or totally filling a crown with the thermoplastic composition of the invention; however, again no adhesive is disclosed.

The reference to Ibsen '489 (US 4,264,489) relates to a provisional crown-and-bridge resin comprising a powder-liquid restorative system. Such resins are used in the mouth after a dentist has prepared the tooth, as a short-term filling-like structure, cf. column 1, lines 7

- 14. No adhesive for silicones is mentioned.

Thus, Ibsen '489 does not refer to a kit for bonding silicone compositions to a base body but to the provision of crown and bridge restorative systems.

The second reference to Ibsen '016 (US 6, 031,016) refers to a single package adhesive for tooth bonding application. The adhesive comprises a mixture of an ethylenically unsaturated monomer an ethylenically unsaturated coupling agent, a poly-ethylenically unsaturated crosslinker, and a photoinitiator, cf. column 1, lines 11 - 20. Ibsen does, accordingly, not refer to an adhesive for silicones or a kit for bonding silicone compositions to a base body.

As to Zalsman (US 5,374,664), it refers to compositions to be used for dental work. More particularly, he relates to compositions useful in the process of dental restoration, as well as to adhesive compositions to be used for dental work. He especially refers to a new dental composition which possesses strong adhesiveness to "fresh" and "old" amalgam as well as to dentin, cf. column 2, lines 25-31.

The composition comprises a methacryloxyethyl trimellitic acid anhydride polymer and a methyl methacrylate monomer in the presence of a catalyst and is

characterized in that the polymer contains at least one metallic compound, cf. claim 1. Such compositions cannot be used to bond silicones to a base body.

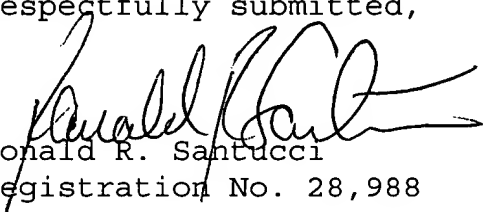
Lastly, the reference to Lee (US 4,107,845) refers to an adhesive restorative composite comprising a suspension of fiber filler in a diacrylate resin or resin blend, cf. column 4, lines 44 - 53. The restorative composites can be used for repairing developmental enamel defects, hypocalcified lesions etc., cf. column 2, lines 37 - 44. No adhesives for silicones are disclosed.

Accordingly, none of the cited prior art documents refer to adhesives for silicones and especially not to a kit for bonding silicone compositions to a base body.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the invention as claimed is patentably distinct from the art cited and a notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required to Deposit Account No. 501145, Order No. 2727-125.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX.

1. (Amended) A kit for bonding silicone compositions to a base body comprising:

- a) at least one partially resolvable (co-)polymer;
- and
- b) at least one adhesive for silicones.

23. (Amended) [A kit] The method according to claim [16]
1 wherein the composite is used for manufacturing a
molding or an impression tray for silicone compositions.

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